

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /083 W

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R 011620Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5064

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET TREATMENT OF PRC 26TH ANNIVERSARY

1. SUMMARY. THE SOVIETS MARKED THE PRC 26TH ANNIVERSARY ROUTINELY WITH BRIEF OFFICIAL GREETINGS, TWO PRESS COMMENTARIES AND THE USUAL TURNOUT AT RECEPTIONS. THE COMMENTARIES CONTINUED THE LINES OF RECENT SOVIET POLEMICS AGAINST PEKING, WHILE REITERATING MOSCOW'S SYMPATHY FOR THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND THE HOPE THAT RELATIONS WILL IMPROVE SOME DAY. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (OCT 1) CARRIES THE TEXT OF THE OFFICIAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO THE CHINESE NPC STANDING COMMITTEE AND STATE COUNCIL. AS USUAL NO NAMES ARE ATTACHED AND THE RESPECTIVE PARTY ORGANS ARE OMITTED. THE MESSAGE IS BRIEF, OFFERING "HEART-FELT CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE."

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PEOPLE." IT NOTES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE

CHINESE REVOLUTION AND OF SOVIET SUPPORT IN LIBERATING CHINA. MOSCOW, IT CONCLUDES, FAVORS THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, WHICH WOULD BENEFIT BOTH PEOPLES. (COMMENT: THE MESSAGE IS SHORTER THAN LAST YEAR'S, OMITTING THE SPECIFIC LISTING OF ALLEGED SOVIET INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.)

3. CENTRAL MEDIA (SEPT 30) REPORTED THAT THE SOVIET-CHINESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HOSTED A FILM SHOW AT FRIENDSHIP HOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 29 TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY. THE PRC AMBASSADOR ATTENDED, BUT NO SOVIET GUESTS WERE NAMED. AT THE PRC EMBASSY RECEPTION THE NEXT NIGHT, THE SOVIET TURNOUT INCLUDED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IL'ICHEV, DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER MANZHULO AND "ARMY GENERAL" OGARKOV. (COMMENT: THIS IS THE SAME TURNOUT AS LAST YEAR.)

4. IZVESTIYA (SEPT 30) AND PRAVDA (OCT 1) CARRIED SIGNED COMMENTARIES (BY A. DYM KOV AND M. GEORGIEV RESPECTIVELY) REPEATING THE STANDARD SOVIET LINE ABOUT THE PRC'S CORRECT COURSE DURING ITS FIRST TEN YEARS AND THE ERRORS OF THE MAOIST LEADERSHIP SINCE. ECHOING RECENT SOVIET TREATMENT OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-J DAY, THE COMMENTARIES PRAISE THE SOVIET ROLE IN DEFEATING THE JAPANESE AND LIBERATING MANCHURIA, AND QUOTE CHINESE COMMENTS AT THE TIME ON THE UNPRECEDENTED SELFLESSNESS OF SOVIET ASSISTANCE. THEY THEN LAMENT PEKING'S DEVIATION FROM THE PRINCIPLES OF MARXISM-LENINISM TOWARDS GREAT POWER CHAUVINISM AND FINALLY TO COLLUSION WITH THE WORST FORCES OF REACTION AGAINST THE REDUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS. THE PRAVDA ITEM CHARGES THAT PEKING FAVORS THE REVISION OF WWII BOUNDARIES AND PUTS FORTH TERRITORIAL CLAIM AGAINST THE USSR, MONGOLIA, INDIA, AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES. IZVESTIYA SAYS THAT THE "MAOISTS" SOUGHT TO GIVE ANTI-SOVIETISM AN "IRREVERSIBLE CHARACTER"--THE SAME TERMS WHICH MOSCOW USES TO DESCRIBE ITS COMMITMENT TO DETENTE. IT DOES ON THAT MOSCOW HAS PUT FORTH "CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS" ON THE BORDER TALKS, SUCH AS A TREATY ON NON-AGGRESSION AND NON-USE OF FORCE (INCLUDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS), BUT PEKING HAS REFUSED TO DISCUSS THESE PROPOSALS. BOTH COMMENTARIES QUOTE THE IDENTICAL PASSAGE FROM BREZHNEV'S JUNE 14, 1974, "ELECTION" SPEECH ON THE NEED TO COMBAT PEKING'S ANTI-SOVIETISM BUT TO HOPE FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

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5. BOTH ITEMS CONCLUDE WITH AFFIRMATIONS OF FAITH THAT THE CHINESE PEOPLE WILL EVENTUALLY "TURN" THIS TRAGIC PAGE AND TAKE THEIR PLACE ALONGSIDE THSE PEOPLES OF THE SOCIALISST BROTHERHOOD.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE THE ASSERTIONS OF SOVIET HOPE AND FAITH, THESE COMMENTARIES PAINT A HARSHLY NEGATIVE PICTURE OF CHINA

AND ITS LEADERS AND IMPLY THAT MOSCOW DOES NOT EXPECT ANY
EARLY SHIFT IN THE RELATIONSHIP. THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE
HARD LINE IN SOVIET POLEMICS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.

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